

Washington, DC – On Wednesday, September 22nd, Harry Teague will host a Congressional Invisible Wounds Caucus hearing focusing on Tinnitus and the impact that it has on the lives of soldiers returning from war. Tinnitus, a less commonly known war wound commonly referred to as “ringing in the ears”, has been ranked the number one service-connected disability for returning personnel from Iraq and Afghanistan for the past three consecutive years.

Leading tinnitus researchers from the military and academia as well as senior officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), among others, will be discussing the latest advances in tinnitus research and treatments, and the impact that these advances may have on the safety and health of our armed forces who suffer with tinnitus and other invisible wounds. Representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the University of Buffalo’s Centers of Hearing and Deafness, AMVETS and the American Tinnitus Association will speak at the hearing.

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All interested media are invited to attend.

Tinnitus, which affects between 20 to 40 percent of current returning veterans, is a neurological condition which can be ‘seen’ and quantified in the brain. New research also demonstrates the link between tinnitus and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which suggests that advances in treatment and prevention for tinnitus may be of benefit for other related neurological and mental health conditions.

Congressman Teague, a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, led a bi-partisan group in forming the Congressional Invisible Wounds Caucus to promote awareness of and solutions for the mental health challenges facing our service members and veterans. He has made veterans' issues a top priority, helping to secure advanced appropriations funding for the VA and introducing legislation aimed at addressing and reducing the impact of mental health issues like PTSD have on the lives of returning veterans. He was recognized by the Coalition for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans and the American Tinnitus Association for his leadership on the mental health of our veterans and service members.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND:

WHAT: Congressional Invisible Wounds Caucus hearing on Tinnitus

WHERE: █ 340 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC

WHEN: 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

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